L A S C A N E W S -1

A periodic report from the Los Angeles State & County Arboretum
to members of California Arboretum Foundation, Inc.

August 1950

We are pleased to announce to our members that their Arboretum is in process of factual development following the approved Master Plan. The Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles, in June, awarded contracts for approximately all of the $88,000 budgeted by the County for our capital improvement project during the fiscal year 1949-50.

The work under way consists of preliminary phases of the following basic items: clearing of dangerous old trees, demolition of worthless structures, general grading, drainage, road paving, sewerage system, and general water system. With this phase of the tree removal and demolition completed, and grading about to begin, we are happy to see constructive work in progress.

Mr. Spalding was promoted to Superintendent of the Arboretum in July. He has been actively engaged in getting seeds of new Australian and South African material for trial. The greenhouse and lath house are rapidly filling with new and rare plants to be used on the Arboretum grounds as soon as planting space is made available by capital improvement work.

Some 4000 plants are growing in our propagating unit. A portion of our surplus rare plant materials will be made available to members who are sufficiently interested to give them good care and report results to us.

Mr. Quinn Buck, until recently Propagator for the Ornamental Horticulture Department at U C L A, is joining our staff September 1st. Mr. Buck is well known in Southern California through his special interest in and improvement of Hemerocallis or Daylilies.

Mr. Tom McGah, having assisted Mr. Spalding in the greenhouse and lath house, will now devote full time as Plant Recorder, accessioning seeds and plant materials, labeling, recording all important data regarding our growing collections, and mapping of planted areas.

As an embryonic Arboretum, which will eventually serve the Los Angeles area and Southern California as a whole, we are in need of the continuing full support of all our members.

Due to construction, we must be closed to visitors until such time as certain portions of the Arboretum's capital projects are completed. The first part of the Arboretum to be made into complete readiness for the public, will be the Historical Center. This includes restorations of the Hugo Reid Adobe, and the "Lucky" Baldwin Coach Barn and Queen Anne Cottage, to be done by the Historical Committee of the Foundation. The restoration work is scheduled to begin after the first of this coming January.

Our official Journal, to commence as a quarterly, will be off the press and distributed to members during October.

We now feel that the Arboretum is well under way. We request that our members announce the fact to their plant loving friends, urging them to become members of California Arboretum Foundation, Inc. Every new and continuing membership is an important step along the pathway to better plants for Southern California.

Respectfully yours,

Russell J. Seibert

Russell J. Seibert / Director
Los Angeles State & County Arboretum

L A S C A N E W S - 2

A periodic report from the Los Angeles State & County Arboretum
to members of California Arboretum Foundation, Inc.

December, 1950

We are pleased to say that the construction work at the Arboretum by the County of Los Angeles has been progressing nicely. The new upper Lagoon and the Lily Pond on the west side of the Arboretum have been dredged. The upper part of the main Lagoon is being cleared of the past decades of sediment to help restore the old Lagoon to its former beauty and extent. A large drain between the upper and lower Lagoon has been installed. Basic grading and road-bed preparation in the central area has advanced to the point of being able to visualize the central road system. Within this area the watermains are being installed, with the sewer line in this area to follow immediately.

The Arboretum was the recipient of an exceptionally fine collection of 391 water color paintings and pen and ink drawings of trees, wild flowers, and exotic plants. This represents a major proportion of a collection done by the late Charles Broughton, a noted illustrator, who, in his later years, lived in Pasadena. The collection was given to the Arboretum by the niece of Mr. and Mrs. Broughton, Mrs. Beatrice Broughton Boore, and will be maintained as a Charles and Josephine Broughton memorial collection.

The Membership Committee of the Foundation, under the Chairmanship of Mrs. Thomas Fleming, is planning public showings of the paintings of this collection after the first of the year.

As you know, the first issue of our quarterly journal, LASCA LEAVES, Vol. I, No. 1, made its appearance in October. The next regular issue, to be distributed in January, will have a double page cut showing the Master Plan of the Arboretum. We have had many requests from our members to have copies of the Master Plan printed for distribution, and a copy is enclosed for your preview information.

The Historical Committee of the Foundation, under Chairmanship of Mrs. Richard Y. Dakin, has announced that Mr. Charles Gibbs Adams, landscape architect, has offered to donate his services in designing the authentic landscaping of the Historical buildings and the Historical preserve area of the Arboretum.

Mr. Spalding reports that about 5000 plants have been grown in the greenhouse and lath house. Accessions of seeds and plants for 1950 have already exceeded 2200 items. This material has come to us from a wide variety of sources throughout the world, including South Africa, Australia, Peru, Argentina, Costa Rica, and through exchanges in this country. Over 200 plants were furnished the State Highway Department to be planted as test groups from San Francisco to San Diego.

Very good exchange relationships are being built up with the local Botanical institutions as U C L A, U of C at Berkeley, and Strybing Arboretum at Golden Gate Park. The U. S. Department of Agriculture, Division of Plant Exploration and Introduction, has started sending us newly introduced material for testing in the Los Angeles area.

We have kept temperature records at the Arboretum for the past two years at several stations throughout the Arboretum grounds. These two years' results will be published shortly in LASCA LEAVES. The Los Angeles County Flood Control District has recently set us up as an official station for recording rainfall and temperature data with intention of next year, furnishing equipment for recording complete weather data.

With Christmas close at hand, we suggest that a California Arboretum Foundation, Inc. membership would be an ideal gift to your plant loving friends. The staff joins me in wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

Respectfully yours,

Russell J. Seibert

Russell J. Seibert, Director